Vacant Posts of Judges in Tamil Nadu

3323. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing number of posts of Judges that are lying vacant in Madras High Court, Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the number of pending cases in that High Court; and

(c) what steps have been taken to appoint judges and early disposal of pending cases'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) As on 1.5.97, there are 3 vacancies of permanent Judges in Madras High Court.

(b) As on 31.12.96, the number of pending cases in the Madras High Court was 3,10,640.

(c) Two new posts of permanent Judges and eight new post of Additonal Judges have been agreed to. The process of consultation among the concerned constitutional authorities for filling up the cxising vacancies as well as new posts is on.

Proposal to change the name of State Election Commissions

3324. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission of India has approached the Union Government to change the name of the State Election Commissions to clear the confusion in the minds of general public and in view of the flooding of complaints in regard to local elections held throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in amending the relevant provision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Preparation of Photo Identity Cards of Voters

3325. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the matter of preparing Photo Identity Cards of the voters in the country so far, State-wise;

(b) the names of the States where progress pertaining to preparation of Photo Identity Card is very slow or negligible;

(c) whether Government propose to fix a time-Limit for preparation of Photo Identity Cards in all the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A statement showing the progress made by different State&UTs in descending order in the matter of preparing Photo Identity Cards enclosed as a statement (See below). It also shows very slow or negligible performance by some of the States.

(c) and (d) The Scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards is an on-going scheme as electoral rolls keep on changing due to continuous feasible to fix a definite time frame.